

Smith, Baumgartner are Wendy's High School Heisman finalists

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

HHS seniors Marissa Smith and Ryan Baumgartner were recently announced as being Wendy's High School Heisman finalists in 2009. Smith was also chosen as one of the top 10 female finalists in Colorado.

Each fall, the Wendy's High School Heisman program recognizes the nation's most esteemed high school senior men and women for excellence in academics, athletics and community/school leadership.

Schools in the United States can select one female and one male out of those who apply for the award. Of 50,000 seniors who applied nationwide, Smith and Baumgartner join the 10,848 top student-athletes who were selected as finalists.

A judging panel narrows the candidates further, choosing 10 males and 10 females for each state, with Smith being selected in Colorado.

Kyle Pollack of Wiggins and Aubrey Mable of Eaglecrest were named Colorado's winners and will receive a medal and \$2,000 for their schools. They will go on to be considered for the national title in New York City Dec. 11. Out of the national finalists, only one male and one female will be recognized with a trophy and \$10,000 donated to their schools.

Ryan is the son of John and Jill Baumgartner, and Marissa is the daughter of David and Rhonda Smith.